

CONFIGURABLE ROOF RACK FOR AUTOMOBILES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0048] A configurable roof rack apparatus includes storage surfaces movable between a first position that is generally coincident with a roof of a vehicle and a second position that is generally coincident with a side of a vehicle. The roof rack is formed with pivotally movable side rails that can be positioned in an upright position or in an inwardly collapsed position. The front and rear transverse rails are also pivotally positionable in a collapsed position to provide a substantially flat profile on the vehicle roof when the components are moved into the collapsed position and a basket-like structure when the components are moved into an upright position. Trim pieces are provided for interconnection between adjacent front and rear side rails to form the basket-like structure. A retractable trim piece is housed in one of the side rails and can be extended to engage the adjacent side rail.